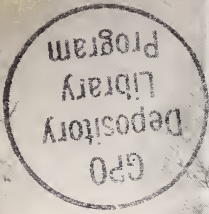


Historic, Archive Document

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ROCK PILE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Reserve
WH76
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M8R62



15 JUN 1990

Mark Twain National Forest

FREDERICKTOWN RANGER DISTRICT

JUL 30 1990

CATALOGING PREP.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



WELCOME TO ROCK PILE MOUNTAIN

This 4,131 acre Wilderness Area is a circle of granite rock mountain. It is located in the town of Ranger District, west of Fredericktown, on a ridge, having a view of Grass Mountain on any four miles to the west.

A virgin forest contains a tucky coffee tree, sheltered in one of the biological laboratories.

The area is within the Ozark National Forest. The elevations range from 1,000 to 2,200 feet. The area is forested with oak, hickory, pine, redcedar, and miscellaneous hardwood species.

Scenic attractions include Rockpile Mountain itself, the steep limestone bluffs, rock formations, and caves along the St. Francis River. The narrow gorges or "shut-ins" with rushing cascades during periods of runoff and the scattered granite glades add variety to the wilderness landscape, as well as unique plant and animal communities.

The area has no significant natural permanent water except for the St. Francis River which touches the area along the southwest corner. Drainages within the area are intermittent, flowing in the times of surplus rainfall. Runoff becomes a torrent in some of the small streams following heavy rains because of the rapid runoff from the steep areas of exposed rock. A few springs exist in the area. Five wildlife ponds constructed prior to Wilderness designation provide a man-made source of year-round water for wildlife.

The wildlife within the area is typical of the Missouri Ozarks. Big game consists of white-tailed deer and wild turkey. Small game animals include squirrels, rabbits, and various other fur bearers. Bird life ranges from large birds such as hawks, owls, turkey vultures, and pileated woodpeckers to the smaller songbirds. The different habitats encourage a variety of birds. Turtles, lizards, and snakes are found throughout the area. Timber rattlers and copperheads are the only poisonous snakes.

NATIONAL

AGRICULTURAL

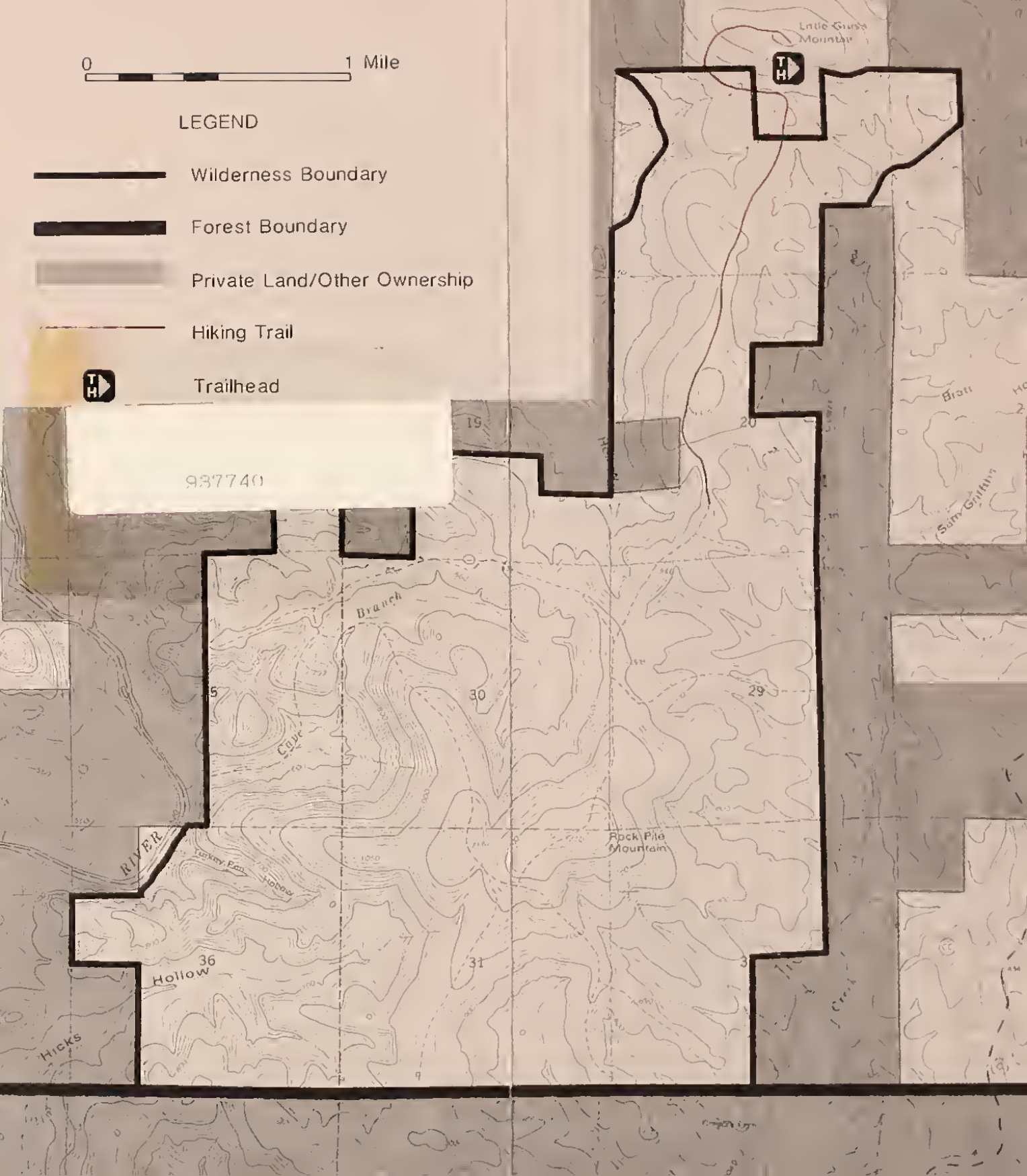
LIBRARY



0 1 Mile

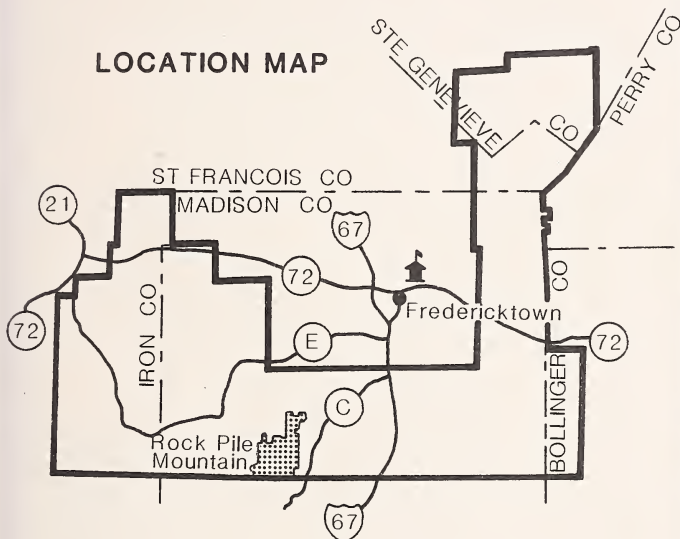
LEGEND

- Wilderness Boundary
- Forest Boundary
- Private Land/Other Ownership
- Hiking Trail
- Trailhead



Rock Pile Mountains was designated a Wilderness in Public Law 96-550, on December 22, 1980, and is managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is one of eight Wildernesses in Missouri, seven of which are located on the Mark Twain National Forest. From the trailhead there is a 2 mile section of maintained trail. The rest of the area is accessed by old woods roads or cross-country hiking.

The area is accessible from Fredericktown via Highway 67 south to County Road C, then about 10 miles on C to County Road 406. Follow 406 to Forest Road 2124.



GENERAL COMMENTS

USGS Quadrangle maps can be obtained from the Forest Service or the U.S. Geological Survey for \$2.50 each. The wilderness is located on the Rock Pile Mountain Quadrangle Map. Maps of the Fredericktown Ranger District are available for \$2.00 each.

Wilderness rangers frequently visit trailheads and patrol the interior of the area. They are there to assist you and answer your questions. Have a pleasant wilderness experience and remember, leave only footprints and take only photographs and memories.

For Further Information Contact:

Fredericktown Ranger District
Hwy. 72 and 00
Route 2, Box 175
Fredericktown, MO 63645
Phone (314) 783-7225

Forest Supervisor
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, MO 65401
Phone (314) 364-4621



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ROCK PILE MTN.
WILDERNESS

WILDERNESS REGULATIONS AND MANNERS

Wilderness is a natural area affected primarily by the forces of nature with little evidence of man's works -- "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Many individuals seek out its peace and solitude, yet it has different meanings and values to different people depending on whether they are backpackers, hunters, photographers, or hikers.

Increasing numbers of Wilderness users may seriously impact the very values they seek. To insure that these values remain intact, please practice good wilderness manners and comply with the following regulations.

Regulations

There are certain human impacts that could damage or destroy the wilderness resource. These practices are not allowed within the Rock Pile Mountain Wilderness.

- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition;
- Placing in or near a stream, lake, or other water any substance which does or may pollute a stream, lake, or other water;
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it;
- Cutting or defacing live or dead standing trees or other vegetation;
- Possessing or using motorized equipment or mechanized transport;
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material, supplies or persons by means of aircraft, including helicopters;
- The building of "structures" such as rock fire rings, tables, lean-tos and the like;

- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life or causing injury, in or within 150 yards of an occupied area, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge;
- Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition.

Missouri Department of Conservation hunting and fishing regulations and license requirements apply.



Wilderness Manners

Today, backpackers should leave no sign of their presence so that the next person can enjoy natural scenes and solitude. You must tread lightly so nature can endure and replenish.

There are self-registration stations at each wilderness trail-head entrance shown on the map. Overnight and day use visitors are requested to register.

Plan your party size, limit size of group to 10 persons or less. This reduces impact on soil and ground cover. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leave your camp cleaner than you found it. **Pack out what you pack in.** Animals generally dig up what you bury, so don't. Dispose of human waste at least 100 feet from campsites, trails and waterways. Dig a shallow hole and cover, nature will biologically decompose.

Keep the number of campfires low and small in size. Dead fallen trees add to the natural environment and future shortages may cause complete restrictions. Fire rings are unnatural signs of man and should be avoided. The use of small gas or chemical cooking stoves is recommended. **Use care with open campfires** - make sure they are dead out and their evidence is scattered before leaving.

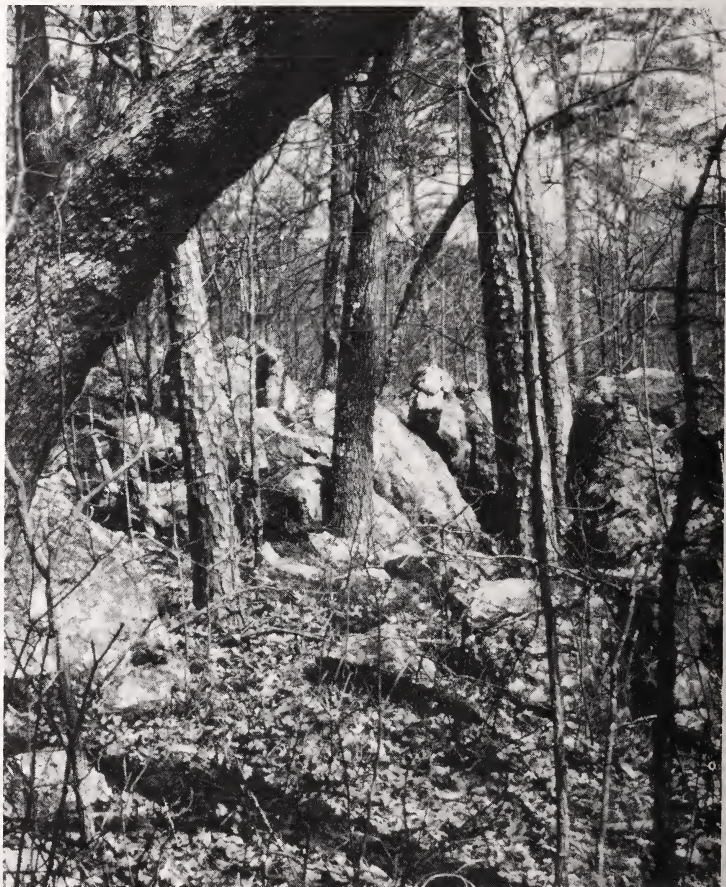
Protect the solitude; seek out campsites that are out of sight and sound of trails and other camps. When sharing an area keep a low profile and maintain the solitude.

Avoid overuse of popular areas, and search out the lesser known attractions.

Be prepared --- have the right equipment and clothing for primitive travel and the season of the year. Carry a good map and compass; practice safety and carry a first aid kit. The universal distress signal is three of anything: shots, shouts, smokes, whistles.

When traveling on a trail, stay on the trail. When traveling cross-country use your map and compass. Use of blazes, ribbons or other trail markers should be avoided; let the next fellow find his own way as you did.

Pack your own shelter, including needed poles and stakes; they are more comfortable than lean-tos.



Rock Pile Mountain Wilderness is surrounded by private property. Please respect the rights and property of private landowners.